

WISCONSIN

SUMMARY OF FY 1997 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The 1997 Partnership Agreement between Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and U.S. EPA Region 5 defines actions the agencies will take together to redefine the operating relationship between the two agencies. During the transition year (1997), DNR and EPA will establish the necessary framework and design processes needed to replace the former DNR/EPA relationship with one that is more effective and efficient. An Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement will be signed in 1998 based on the work accomplished as a result of this Agreement.

POTENTIAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

During the 1997 transition year, EPA and DNR will agree on a process for selecting joint priorities and committing joint resources for implementation through the 1998-99 Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement. Potential priorities include the following:

- ◆ **Mercury reduction strategy.** DNR will achieve mercury reduction through technical support, information-sharing, scientific research, financial assistance and regulation. DNR has created a multi-division team to assess the status of the mercury problem to develop proposals for consideration by DNR managers. DNR will continue to develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in priority waters consistent with the list developed and approved under section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.
- ◆ **Brownfields.** Steps will be taken to build capacity for a long-term successful brownfields program through increased state funding. Major efforts will be placed into continuing the Brownfields Environmental Assessment Pilot (BEAP), developing fact sheets and guidance, and furthering public outreach. Wisconsin will also attempt to learn from the experiences of others and strengthen brownfields resources during the biennial budget process.
- ◆ **Pollution prevention.** DNR will ensure better integration of pollution prevention activities into the environmental media and enforcement programs. A process will be developed for targeting limited resources, identifying opportunities for pollution prevention, establishing priorities, developing cross-program pollution prevention initiatives, and measuring performance.
- ◆ **Quality assurance.** The DNR maintains a vision of developing a quality assurance program that covers all aspects of the organization's processes, products and services. This vision includes a system that promotes high-quality data for environmental decision-making. The development of an agency-wide Quality Management Plan (QMP) in FFY 97 is premature, but a foundation with the appropriate building blocks will be put in place.

WISCONSIN (cont.)

- ◆ **Land use.** The DNR views land use as a top priority. Staff will think broadly about land use impacts of DNR decisions, be strong advocates for sound land use, and provide information to decision makers. Participation in local issues will be addressed through adjustment of individual work assignments as needs arise.
- ◆ **Great Waters ecosystem protection.** Several projects already underway will require continued efforts. The work plan will recognize and build off of these efforts. It will identify priority areas and ecological goals and indicators on which various programs can focus attention and resources. The DNR work plan will identify links to other specific efforts such as remedial action planning, lake-wide management activities, and initiatives such as the Great Waters effort and the Great Lakes Regional Dredging Team Project.
- ◆ **Clean Air Act implementation.** The Bureau of Air Management has initiated and plans to continue efforts in the following areas to address key air issues:
 - Ozone attainment
 - Operating permits
 - Integration of environmental media programs
 - Biomonitoring and bioindicators
 - Self-monitoring and enhanced monitoring
 - Market-based and voluntary compliance approaches
 - Partnerships with EPA, the University of Wisconsin, other colleges, and universities

DNR will work with EPA to identify base air program activities, develop the air program partnership areas, establish mutually agreeable measures of performance, and develop a meaningful process that includes self-assessment.

- ◆ **Public outreach.** The reorganized Bureau of Communication and Education will attempt to bring order and structure to the agency's communication and education activities by matching assessments of customer needs with the management and development of communication and education plans to meet these needs. The bureau will develop cross-program work teams to develop and implement those plans.
- ◆ **Cultural change.** DNR wants to maximize environmental and human health protection by improving the way it carries out its work and achieves its mission (improving organizational culture). The DNR will review its culture and ask whether it fits the needs of the future.
- ◆ **Community-based environmental management.** DNR's Integrated Management Team will assign an issue manager empowered to pull together resources from

WISCONSIN (cont.)

throughout the agency to incorporate community-based management principles into all program work plans. All agency bureaus within the DNR's six divisions will have a role.

- ◆ **Compliance and enforcement.** This work plan will focus on developing processes and procedures to improve communication and opportunities for maximizing use of limited compliance and enforcement resources. DNR will define the compliance and enforcement resources available and processes for allocating those limited resources for media and multi-media compliance and enforcement activities. DNR will also identify measures for the compliance and enforcement program that are better indicators of performance.
- ◆ **Integrated Ecosystem Management.** DNR will:
 - Apply ecosystem management principles and practices to the department's programs so that goals and priorities for biodiversity can be determined in the context of ecological, socio-economic, and institutional issues.
 - Build partnerships with other agencies, local governments, tribes, the business community, scientists, and interest groups to accomplish common goals for ecosystem management, including specific attention to biological diversity.
 - Build partnerships with private land owners to accomplish common goals for ecosystem management, recognizing that the DNR cannot accomplish the breadth of what needs to be done to conserve biodiversity by working on public lands alone.
 - Develop innovative and proactive information and education strategies for department staff and the public regarding biological diversity and its relationship to ecosystem management.
- ◆ **Partnerships.** Through partnerships, DNR will improve regulatory compliance processes, communication and problem-solving with industries the agency regulates or within communities taking actions to improve environmental quality.